MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

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Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 67, No. 51 December 18, 2025 $1

Venezuela int'l conference

U.S. delegates defy 'no-fly zone'

By Mairead Skehan Gillis
Caracas, Venezuela

A delegation from the U.S. traveled to Venezuela to attend the People's Assembly for Peace and Sovereignty in our Americas held in Caracas from December 9-11. The activists represented organizations opposing U.S. imperialist wars and took part in a coordinated week of action across 100 cities from November 15-23 to demand "No U.S. War on Venezuela!" and "No Troops on Our Streets!"

It was of utmost importance to participate in the assembly hosted by the Venezuelan government and the Simón Bolivar Institute to show unwavering solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution as it defends itself against growing U.S. aggressions, sanctions and war maneuvers in the Caribbean while simultaneously promoting a Zone of Peace across the hemisphere.

The conference went on despite desperate attempts by the U.S. government to impose illegal travel restrictions and a "no-fly zone" over Venezuelan airspace that it had no authority to impose or enforce. The Simón Bolivar Institute made every attempt to bring as many people as possible to this gathering. In total, 376 international delegates from 40 countries touched down in Caracas from across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the United States and parts of Europe. The majority of delegates could not get flights, because of the no-fly zone's impact on the size of every international delegation in attendance.

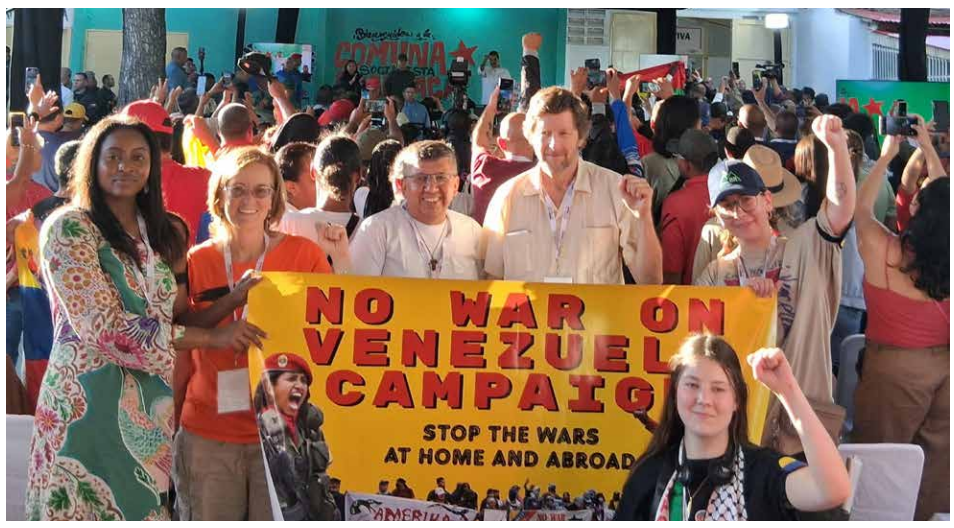
Only 10 delegates from the U.S. out of 43 who received an invitation made it to the assembly. They represented Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Students for a Democratic Society, Party for Socialism and Liberation, Struggle La Lucha, Workers World Party and Palaver Collective. Also attending from the U.S. were representatives of Tricontinental and the Venezuela Solidarity Network.

Opening day of People's Assembly for Peace and Sovereignty in our Americas, Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 9, 2025. WW PHOTO: MAIREAD SKEHAN GILLIS

Those who were blocked by the U.S. war threats from attending held a press conference on Dec. 10, with strong leadership from the National Lawyers Guild, to condemn this repression of the antiwar solidarity movement. (*workers.org/2025/12/89530*)

'No blood for oil!'

The Trump administration claims that their bombing of Venezuelan and Colombian fishing boats in the Caribbean Sea with no regard for international law or due process, killing at least 87 people to date, is in response to drug trafficking led by Venezuela's democratically elected president, Nicolás Maduro. These blatant lies are told to cover up the true intentions of the Pentagon, Wall Street and the CIA to carry out yet another war for oil and topple the leadership of the Bolivarian Revolution.



Int'l delegation and residents of Amalivaca Socialist Commune gather to hear President Nicolás Maduro, Dec. 11, 2025. WW PHOTO: MAIREAD SKEHAN GILLIS

In fact, Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela have committed to use Venezuela's natural resources for the benefit of the Venezuelan people. The socio-economic gains taking place thanks to the Bolivarian socialist process are a direct threat to the decaying capitalist system in the U.S. that is headed in the direction of an economic crisis.

The imperialists' goals were made obvious by the criminal seizure of a massive Venezuelan oil tanker on December 10 during the peace conference. It was headed to supply oil to thousands of people across the Caribbean, including in Cuba.

President Nicolás Maduro condemned this act of war at an encounter between Venezuelan people and the international solidarity activists in the Amalivaca Socialist Commune in Caracas on December 11. He proclaimed that "the mask has fallen. They want to rob the oil from Venezuela and not pay for it. But since the time of Bolivar, by presidential decree everything that is below the ground — whether it's gold, minerals, oil or gas — belongs to the sovereign people of Venezuela by constitutional mandate and no one, nothing will be able to steal it. No blood for oil!"

The three days of international exchange at the People's Assembly were of special political significance, because it was an opportunity to show solidarity with the Venezuelan people and unite across shared struggles for liberation with a common enemy of capitalism and

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No social problems can be solved under capitalism. The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to good-paying jobs, shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

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Young workers reject capitalism's dead-end future

By Will Hodgkinson

According to a recent Harvard Kennedy School study, only 13% of 18-29 year olds in the U.S. have confidence "in the direction the country is going." By overwhelming majorities, the young people surveyed reject both bourgeois political parties and believe economic trends will leave them worse off than their parents. Support for "capitalism" has likewise dipped, from 45% in 2020 to 39%. (Harvard Youth Poll, Fall)

Given the systemic crisis global capital is experiencing, these findings should come as no surprise. Over the past six months, unemployment has surged to 4.5%. Annual layoffs have topped 1 million — the highest level since the beginning of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. (cnbc.com, Dec. 4) Because the Trump administration has used the federal government shutdown as a pretext to suppress monthly jobs reports, the actual figure is likely far higher.

Inflation, rated the greatest concern in the Harvard survey, continues to undercut wages and drive up already exorbitant prices and rents. Some 43% of young people overall reported financial hardship. Financial insecurity reflects systemic racialism; 50% of Black and 51% of Latine respondents report hardship.

WW PHOTO: MARSHA GOLDBERG

July 26, 2025, protest, New York City

Tech billionaires hoarding astronomical wealth

Even as signs of crisis multiply by the day, the corporate media continues to celebrate the record-breaking stock market boom, which has added hundreds of billions of dollars to the already astronomical wealth hoarded by tech, real estate, finance and weapons barons. Fueling the boom is the speculative frenzy for generative artificial intelligence (AI).

Tech billionaires are revelling in the prospect of the mass unemployment and immiseration that AI automation threatens. In an interview, the CEO of Anthropic AI, Dario Amodei, insisted that AI could lead to unemployment rates of 20% by eliminating entry-level jobs. (axios.com, May 28)

For the time being, Amodei's prophecy is wishful thinking. Despite the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on semiconductors and server farms, tech companies like Anthropic, Google, Microsoft, Nvidia and Open AI have largely failed to turn a profit. (futurism.com, Dec. 5 2025)

Yet their intent is clear. The AI boom is only the latest offensive in the class war waged by the bourgeoisie, which for over two centuries has used technology to devalue and impoverish the working class.

Given the plans Silicon Valley billionaires have for AI, the mantra, repeated ad nauseum by their chorus of booster sycophants, that it "is here to stay," sounds less like a promise and more like a threat. More and more workers are taking it that way. Some 45% of those polled in the Harvard survey expected "AI to take away opportunities." This is already happening. Citing their AI investments, companies such as Microsoft have begun laying off tech workers. (workers.org/2024/04/78192)

Young workers reject endless wars

As their views on AI use show, young workers are rejecting the future of endless austerity, war and intensifying exploitation offered to the working class. As the Zionist holocaust in Gaza has shown, the technological dreams envisioned by tech billionaires are a nightmare for everyone else.

In his book "The Palestine Laboratory," Antony Loewenstein notes that it is no coincidence that tech billionaires like Larry Ellison, Peter Thiel and Thiel's crony, Palantir CEO Alex Karp, who represent the predominant fraction of the U.S. ruling class, have championed support for the genocidal Zionist state. A major source of Silicon Valley investment, "Israel" tests state-of-the-art drones, surveillance systems and automated killing algorithms in Gaza.

Tech companies are using these same technologies to surveil and terrorize the Black, migrant and Indigenous communities in the U.S., those Trump's fascist crackdown is targeting. (wired.com, April 18, 2025)

Although not covered by the Harvard youth survey, other recent polls have shown that support for Palestine is surging, above all among young people. (brookings.edu, Aug. 6)

This spectre of rising anti-Zionism continues to haunt the Western bourgeoisie. In a recent interview, former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton — a war criminal responsible for terror bombings and massacres in Libya and Syria — blamed TikTok videos for "brainwashing" young people. Billionaire Oracle CEO Larry Ellison and his son, David, who recently bought Paramount, which empire includes CBS, have vowed to intensify "hasbara" messaging. (972mag.com, Dec. 4) (Hasbara is used to describe pro-Israeli propaganda.)

Yet the ruling class propaganda offensive is failing. As their complaints reveal, bourgeois propagandists know as much, and they are scared. They are right to be. Deepening support for Palestine shows the possibilities and power of revolutionary mass politics.

The discontents recorded by the Harvard study are the more explosive for being, as yet, shapeless. True revolution can and must become reality through socialist organizing based on solidarity with anti-imperialist resistance in the worldwide class war. The fascist tendencies that the capitalist crisis has thrown up in the form of Trump once again confronts the working class, especially the youth, with the choice Rosa Luxembourg first posed in 1915: "Socialism or Barbarism!" ❐

The bevy of billionaire media barons

By Betsey Piette

In pre-revolutionary France, when nobility ruled and the bourgeois class was struggling for power, the term "fourth estate" was applied to the press, deemed watchdogs over the clergy, nobility and commoners — the first, second and third estates. The more modern interpretation of the media's role still places them separate and aloof from governments, businesses and workers.

But under late-stage capitalism, the media has become completely corporatized, monopolized and controlled by a small number of superrich capitalists. Any idea that corporate media plays a watchdog role today, other than to keep the workers oppressed, is fading fast.

According to the Center for Information, Technology and Public Life (CITAP) there has been a drastic decline in media outlets since 2005. Nearly 3,500 local newspapers have gone out of business. Jobs for journalists working in print media have declined by 71% in the last two decades.

The internet and social media have altered news consumption, while downgrading the quality of journalism. Meanwhile, large investment firms have purchased struggling papers, often resulting in staff cuts or closures, according to LocalNewsInitiative.Northwestern.edu.

Now, in the last stage of a dying capitalist system, the intense monopolization of media has placed control over what people know and how they should think into fewer and fewer hands. Corporate media is consciously moving in a right-wing direction, with a major shift against diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Ellison media spending spree

In his article "The seven richest billionaires are all media barons," Alan MacLeod lays out the details of this media monopoly. (MintPress News, Nov. 26)

CIA contractor Larry Ellison, the world's second-richest man and a close friend of both President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has been on a media spending spree. In August, he provided funds for his son, David Ellison, to purchase Paramount Global, which controls CBS, BET, MTV, Comedy Central, Nickelodeon, Paramount Streaming and Showtime. Upon his appointment as CEO of CBS News, David Ellison reoriented the network's political outlook, fired staff and pushed CBS to become more pro-Trump. In October he made known Zionist fanatic Bari Weiss editor-in-chief of CBS News.

In September, Trump signed an executive order designed to force through the sale of TikTok to a consortium led by Larry Ellison's tech company, Oracle. Should the sale proceed, it would give the Ellisons control over the news and entertainment platform used by over 60% of people under 30. But not satisfied, Larry Ellison is now leading a hostile takeover bid against Netflix for CNN's parent, Warner Bros. Discovery.

The other billionaire media barons

Elon Musk, the wealthiest person in the world, purchased Twitter in 2022 for around $44 billion, renamed it X and quickly used the platform to spread misinformation that advanced his far-right agenda. Musk also owns the artificial intelligence chatbot Grok, known to generate more conservative responses to users' inquiries.

Former Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos bought the Washington Post for $250 million in 2013 and began firing anti-establishment writers and hiring pro-war columnists. In 2014, Amazon paid around $1 billion to purchase Twitch, a streaming platform that hosts around 7 million broadcasters. Bezos also owns the movie studio MGM and the audiobook platform Audible.

French billionaire Bernard Arnault, the world's seventh-richest man, owns a media empire that includes daily newspapers Le Parisien and Les Echoes, magazines Paris Match and Challenges and Radio Classique. Sergey Brin and Larry Page, Google co-founders, are collectively worth over a half trillion dollars. Google is a major player in social media, purchasing YouTube for $1.65 billion in 2006. Mark Zuckerberg made $203 billion through social media and tech ventures like Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

MacLeod also described how some of these rich individuals have profited from contracts with the capitalist state. The Department of Defense gave Amazon, Google, Microsoft and Oracle a $9 billion cloud- computing contract in 2022. Bezos signed a $600 million contract with the CIA in 2014.

Federal regulations have failed to stop mergers and acquisitions, leading to more intense monopolization. Workers' jobs are being eliminated, wages reduced and working conditions worsened. The working class needs to fight back against the elimination of diversity and the shift of political content to the right. We need to promote media like Workers World newspaper that defends and uplifts international working-class struggles! ❐

New China book debunks lies

By Monica Moorehead
New York City

A packed room of mainly activists attended a book launch meeting on Dec. 6 for an exciting, newly published book, "China Changes Everything: Observations on Global Change." The book, a compilation of articles written by over 30 activist authors, is a project of Friends of Socialist China and published by World View Forum. The meeting was held at Workers World Party's New York City office. Two representatives from China's Mission to the United Nations attended the launch.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Authors attend China book launch meeting, Dec. 6, New York City.

Twelve of the authors spoke, briefly summarizing the chapters they each contributed to the book, explaining how China is transforming social and economic life for a fourth of the world's population while giving concrete solidarity to developing countries.

Margaret Kimberly, a co-founder of Black Agenda Report, and Sara Flounders, a leader of the SanctionsKill Campaign, co-chaired the meeting. Both are spokespeople for the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC).

Go to *shop.ingramspark.com/b/084* to order copies of the book at a discount. ❐

Children's Hospital defends rights of transgender patients

By Marie Kelly
Philadelphia

A federal court in Philadelphia ruled in favor of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia blocking the Trump administration's demand for the renowned hospital's Gender and Sexuality Development Program to turn over confidential information about clinic patients. CHOP runs one of the largest clinics in the U.S. which provides medical care and mental health support for transgender and gender-nonbinary children and teens and their families. Each year since 2014, hundreds of new families seek care through the program.

In June, the Department of Justice under Trump subpoenaed CHOP and 19 other hospitals that provide gender affirming care to hand over their patients' personal information, including birth dates, Social Security numbers and addresses of minors in their care. This is a blatant violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) of 1996.

HIPAA protects patient privacy by making it illegal to disclose an individual's medical information. Health care workers are well aware of the restrictions of HIPAA. Under Trump's threat to withhold federal funds, some hospitals have shut their gender-affirming care clinics for minors. One was Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

The parents of minors receiving gender-affirming care were outraged and frightened by this government overreach. Transgender youth are often the targets of discrimination and violence that can have serious negative consequences for an individual's mental health.

The American Academy of Pediatrics supports the use of medications for gender-affirming care as safe, effective and medically necessary for the patient's mental health.

CHOP sought legal recourse along with other subpoenaed hospitals. Boston Children's Hospital fought and blocked the DOJ subpoena in September. U.S. District Court Judge Myong Joun decided that the subpoena was "motivated only by bad faith." (beckershospitalreview.com, Sept. 11)

In a statement welcoming the ruling, Boston Children's stated, "Boston Children's Hospital is committed to providing comprehensive, gender-affirming care for transgender and gender-diverse youth, emphasizing individualized support and mental health services." (Reuters, Sept. 9)

In November, in what is hopefully a promising trend, U.S. District Court Judge Mark Kearney in Philadelphia blocked Trump's DOJ subpoena in favor of CHOP. In a scathing 54-page decision, Judge Kearney wrote "that the medical records sought by the U.S. Department of Justice were beyond the authority granted by Congress" and that "the heightened privacy interests of children and their families substantially outweighs the Department's need to know." (Inquirer.com, Nov. 21)

Further, Kearney denied the part of the DOJ subpoena seeking documents related to doctor's assessments before prescribing medications that help patients have a body that matches their gender identity, along with informed consent and parent-guardian authorization documents.

We are witnesses to this attack on transgender rights in the military, sports, bathroom privileges and now health care. We must continue in our support of the most vulnerable communities and all oppressed members of our class. ☐

Moving trans solidarity for beloved Miss Major Griffin-Gracy

By Renée Andrea Imperato
New York City

On November 22 at Riverside Church, hundreds of followers arrived in New York City for a historic event to honor Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, one of the Black trans women who led the Stonewall Rebellion in June 1969. Miss Major passed away on Oct. 13 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

There were many moving addresses by Miss Major's longtime partner Beck Witt, Miss Ceyenne of G.L.I.T.S, Qween Jean of Black Trans Liberation Kitchen and other family members and supporters. It was an historic memorial that will always be remembered by all of us.

Miss Major will always be guiding and protecting us and reminding us of the great sacrifice she made. As she would say, "I'm still fucking here."

Unfortunately, reflecting the transphobia in parts of the church and elsewhere, the memorial was cut off halfway by the church because of one quote using a swear word. Miss Major often said — with many people not understanding — that we do not use the so-called wrong bathroom as the church organizers told us.

The same problem happened at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City in 2024 at transgender activist Cecilia Gentilli's memorial — reminding us that we have a long way to go in educating to end the miseducation and misunderstanding of our transgender community.

Miss Major, ¡Presente!

For a tribute to Miss Major, see: workers.org/2025/11/89077.

WW PHOTO: RENÉE ANDREA IMPERATO

Ceyenne and Qween Jean hold photo of Miss Major, New York City, Nov. 22, 2025.

Disability rights – and justice

By Mary P. Kaessinger

To commemorate the 33rd International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), the Disability Justice and Rights Caucus of Workers World Party honors revolutionary disability justice and rights fighter and labor organizer Mary Pinotti Kaessinger by reprinting her last Workers World article based on the last speech she gave on IDPD 2020.

Kaessinger passed away in 2023 (workers.org/2023/04/70269/). She was an organizer and the recording secretary for New York City's annual Disability Pride Parade, for which she was posthumously honored at the Oct. 19, 2025, parade. The certificate of appreciation for her disability justice and rights advocacy was proudly accepted by her daughter Susan Kaessinger.

The following remarks were delivered during a webinar on Dec. 3 in observance of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

Welcome to our webinar on disability rights — or the lack of them. December 3 is the day the U.N. declared International Day for Persons with Disabilities. The disability rights movement is about living a full life, actively participating in all spheres of society — getting an education, working, having a family and other social connections.

Sign a LEGALLY BINDING CONTRACT to install elevators!
BLACK DISABLED LIVES MATTER
Disabled Lives Matter
Money for Accessible Transit for ALL
NOT Racist Policing
People's Power Assemblies NYC

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Demonstration inside Macy's in New York City, on the International Day for Persons with Disabilities in 2019.

The movement has a two-pronged strategy. One is the legal route, which led to passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the U.S. in 1990. The other strategy is direct action, which began in 1978 when members of ADAPT [formerly Americans Disabled for Accessible Public Transit] sat down — literally got out of their wheelchairs and down on the ground — in front of buses in Denver. ADAPT has continued with sit-ins whenever needed, including in June 2017 in Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office to support the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), which was threatened — and still is.

Growing concerns

As the disability rights movement has grown, so have our concerns.

First and foremost is racist policing. Black disabled lives matter. Over 50% of people of color killed by police are disabled. Some have neuro-divergent illnesses that are invisible and may lead to unpredictable behaviors, which the racist police use as an excuse to shoot them.

The case of Eleanor Bumpurs was highly publicized in 1984. Ms. Bumpurs was a 66-year-old African American woman, described as "mentally ill," who was being evicted from her apartment in the Bronx, because she was four months behind in her rent. She told the marshals evicting her that she would pour boiling water on them if they approached her. So the police who were backing up the marshals shot her. That was 1984 — before there were cell phone cameras documenting these events. Who knows how often this sort of incident has occurred? Now, with cameras documenting incidents, we know how frequently they happen.

Another crisis we are facing is the coronavirus pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that people are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 if they have serious underlying chronic medical conditions, such as a chronic lung disease, serious heart condition or weakened immune system.

Adults with disabilities are three times more likely than adults without disabilities to have these conditions. And if you are in a nursing home, as many disabled people are, you are in a confined space that has been shown to be a petri dish for the transmission of COVID-19.

If we consider aging to be a disability, as the ADA does, then the number of people with disabilities who live in nursing homes grows even larger. I was heartened to hear yesterday that nursing home residents are slated to be in the first tier of recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Another battle we have to fight is the pauperization of people with disabilities. That arises because disability benefits are tied to income. If you make more than the guidelines require, you do not qualify for the benefits you may need, like help with laundry or cleaning. By federal law, people with disabilities can be paid below minimum wage, but the benefits limit makes fighting for the minimum wage problematic. This is a battle the National Federation for the Blind has been fighting for years.

Housing is another difficulty. Here the problem is accessibility. If you have limited mobility, you need an accessible entrance — not stairs!

Growing fight-back

The list goes on, but there has been fight-back and growing understanding of these situations. And the fight-back is strong and getting stronger. There is an annual parade in New York City, as well as in other cities, to celebrate the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, the New York City parade drew over 15,000 people. Disabled in Action has brought lawsuits against the NYC Metropolitan Transit Authority to put elevators in all subway stations. These challenges are winding their way through the court system.

In 2006, in recognition of the worldwide struggle for disability rights, the U.N. established the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. So far 177 countries have ratified it — but not the U.S. (Nor has the U.S. ratified human rights treaties defending women, children and migrant workers.) The U.N. convention is much more liberal in granting disability benefits. In fact, the treaty affirms the rights of all people with disabilities to live in their community and have the necessary support to do so. ☐

Trump's racist diatribes can't cover up historic stagflation

By Steve Gillis

Inside the Mount Airy Casino Resort in Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania, on Dec. 9 President Donald Trump delivered a racist tirade of vulgarities and threats, billed in advance as his defining speech on the U.S. economy. The backdrop was a few hundred MAGA-bedecked white people alternately jeering and cheering in front of a red, white and blue banner reading, "Lower Prices, Bigger Paychecks."

Trump charged that only "stupid people" don't understand the "huge financial windfalls" of his first 11 months of tariffs, military maneuvers, diplomatic "deals" and mass firings of government workers. He then led the crowd of gamblers, shopkeepers, mid-level managers, cops and other white supremacists in a call and response with the words "sh_thole" and "hellhole," targeting the Black and Muslim peoples of Haiti, Somalia, Iran and Afghanistan.

In a performance Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels would have admired, the president of the U.S. made a death threat against U.S. Congressperson Ilhan Omar and promised an imminent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) assault on the Somali community in the Minneapolis district she represents.

Trump led the attendees in sneering at the word "affordability," claiming that to use the word is a personal attack on him. He declared that "prices are coming down everywhere," "millions of jobs will be created," and "the economy is A+++."

This fascist-style rally — with dozens more planned countrywide in the coming months leading up to the 2026 midterm elections — was meant to further cover up the multiple crises of mass layoffs, union busting and unaffordable prices for food, housing, health care and utilities.

The 12 billionaires in Trump's cabinet and high-level administration have utilized fascistic propaganda, racist police-state terror and the elimination of data and data-oriented workers at government agencies — most essentially the Department of Labor and its Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) — in this coverup. The drastic crises in rapid succession over the past 11 months have created misery for tens of millions of workers, people with disabilities and the ever-increasing ranks of impoverished families. Communities of color have been especially hard hit.

1.17 million layoffs and counting in 2025

During the bipartisan, record-long government shutdown from Oct. 1 through Nov. 12, the Trump cabal continued the firings of federal workers and dismantling of services at government agencies that billionaire Elon Musk initiated, stopping the production and public release of statistics about how the capitalist economy is functioning. Trump fired the BLS Director Erika McEntarfer on Aug. 1, minutes after the agency released a revised report showing that they had overestimated job creation since January by over 900,000.

When McEntarfer's interim replacement published an August 2025 jobs report on Sept. 4, it proved the point that the unemployment rate rose, to 7.5% for Black workers. (cnbc.com, Sept. 5) A notice at the BLS website says the agency does not intend to produce jobs reports for September and October 2025. (bls.gov/ces)

But some private outfits continued to provide their clients with data about how to proceed in their drive to make profits. On Dec. 4, consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas issued a report that November's corporate plans included 71,321 separate layoff actions and that there were a staggering 1.17 million job losses since Trump took office in January. It turns out that CEOs have carried out layoffs at a pace faster and deeper than at any other time since the mass job losses at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns in early 2020! (cnbc.com, Dec. 4)

The CG&C report categorized the layoffs as resulting from the mass firings of over 300,000 government workers starting in March, Trump's tariff war, tech sector restructuring due to automation, the attempted utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) to replace workers for various tasks and weak consumer demand for goods and services.

Not mentioned in the report are the as yet uncounted job losses resulting from ICE mass deportations, racist new work rules — like English tests for truck drivers which have taken 9,500 truckers off the road (bloomberg.com, Dec. 10) — and funding cuts to universities and corporations for medical research and other programs, all of which continue on a daily basis.

In general, the CG&C report describes what Karl Marx and Frederick Engels first outlined in 1848's "Manifesto of the Communist Party," then detailed in four volumes of "Das Kapital" ("Capital") as the many-faceted products of capitalist overproduction — experienced now for centuries. These crises are caused by the capitalists' incessant drive to increase profit by introducing new technology that shrinks the workforce.

Today, with the latest automation and AI technology, the capitalists are moving at breakneck speed to try to achieve their impossible dream — profits without workers.

Contrary to the Poconos casino's banner fantasizing "Bigger Paychecks," the billionaires' attacks have produced in months one of the largest, societywide wage reductions in U.S. history. With nearly 2 million people suddenly thrown out of work in such a short time, tens of millions more working people have been forced to go along with drastic reductions in their families' income.

SNAP crisis showed hunger stalking millions

When the government budget shutdown threatened the imminent cutoff of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food stamp benefits to 42 million people in early November, it became impossible for the ruling class to hide the precarious condition of millions of children, elders and even people working at blue chip, trillion-dollar companies like WalMart and Amazon. For nearly two weeks, the media focused on food banks, soup kitchens and church basements where hungry people were standing in line for something to eat for themselves and their families.

WW PHOTO

Center for United Labor Action marching in New York City circa 1970s-era stagflation. Banner reads "High food prices eat up our wages while we eat less."

Unless they're superrich and lying through their teeth, everyone who has to eat is painfully aware of the increasingly unaffordable prices for basic food items. The inflation that the BLS and Wall Street statisticians counted in the double digits a few years ago may have lessened, but is still high. It is apparent to all workers and poor people who also struggle to afford housing, utilities and health insurance (if they have it).

Tens of millions of people are going deeper into debt just to buy food or are going without it. Yet like arrogant billionaire bosses, the MAGA crowd's fascist misleaders wrongly think of workers as ignorant of their own condition.

Stagflation – a double-tap attack on working class

The phenomenon of increasing prices while wages are being lowered — which is not supposed to happen according to capitalist academic economic pseudo-theory — is known as "stagflation," a combination of a stagnant or declining labor market plus inflation.

Like the Sept. 2 follow-up murder of shipwreck survivors of the initial U.S. Navy missiles that exploded a small speedboat off the coast of Venezuela, stagflation is a double attack on the working class, utilizing the combination of price gouging and mass layoffs in the capitalists' futile attempt to stop their rate of profit from falling.

As even Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson stated at an Oct. 18 rally, it will take a militant, unified movement of the working class and its multitude of community-based organizations in preparation for general strikes to turn back this racist wave of attacks on our very ability to eat. Unions and community groups countrywide need to make this a priority.

In the final conflict, it will take a revolutionary socialist movement to overcome the capitalist scourge of periodic stagflation, forever and for all.

Steve Gillis is a former president of United Steelworkers Local 8751, now retired after driving a school bus in Boston for nearly four decades.

Now in second month

Starbucks strike keeps growing

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

Now in its second month, the strike at unionized Starbucks stores continues to grow and intensify. On Dec. 13, Starbucks Workers United (SBWU) reported in an email to supporters: "This week marks one full month of the open-ended [Unfair Labor Practice] strike, and workers are only turning up the volume. Thursday brought the largest expansion yet, with hundreds of new union baristas walking off the job in 34 cities.

"That brings us to 3,800 baristas across 180 stores in over 130 cities holding the line together. One month in, this is the longest national ULP strike in Starbucks' history, and workers aren't backing down. Every week makes it clearer: this movement is growing, because workers are leading, communities are listening, and solidarity keeps showing up in new ways."

About 12,000 Starbucks workers are unionized. Their strike began on Nov. 13 with about 1,000 workers walking the picket line. The three main demands are for higher wages, guaranteed longer hours and the resolution of hundreds of ULP charges the union has filed in response to blatant union busting.

In New York City, cops arrested 12 strikers who were picketing with hundreds of supporters outside the Empire State Building. Meanwhile, under a court case settlement in New York City, the chain will pay a total of $35.5 million to over 15,000 Starbucks workers who were illegally denied stable schedules under the city's Fair Workweek law.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Starbucks strikers outside downtown Cleveland store, Dec. 9, 2025.

One militant tactic being used in several locations is the deployment of "flying pickets" who stand in front of trucks before a delivery is made to a store. If the driver is a member of the Teamsters union, they have a contractual right to refuse to cross a picket line. This successful tactic, which involves following the truck from one delivery to the next, has been a collaborative effort between SBWU and the Teamsters Joint Council in the areas where it has been tried.

Starbucks workers in Chicago maintained a 48-hour, round-the-clock picket line. In solidarity with this action, Starbucks workers in 10 different countries held sympathy strikes.

SBWU asks supporters to "stand firm with us and don't buy Starbucks." ☐

HISTORIC TWELVE-DAY

By Betsey Piette

Around 150 participants filled both sides of the entrance road to State Correctional Institution (SCI) Mahanoy for a rally on Dec. 9—the final day of the historic March for Mumia. The march demanded "Justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal, End Medical Neglect [in Pennsylvania prisons] and End Elder Abuse."

The 12-day, 103-mile march started in Philadelphia on Nov. 28 and ended in Frackville, Pennsylvania, with over 65 people walking the last three miles.

The seven individuals who completed the entire march included Saleemah Hadi, Lawrence Hamm and Steve Bernhaut with People's Organization for Progress (POP); Dr. Richardo Alvarez, Mumia's medical adviser; Baba Zayid Muhammad, a Black Panther Party cub and organizer with the New York Malcolm X Commemoration Committee; Bob Nash with Veterans for Peace; and Joe Piette, with Workers World Party and the Mobilization4Mumia.

Many others marched for a day or two, or provided food, transportation, and other critical organizational support.

A long-time supporter of Mumia, Pam Africa, with International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, reminded people that Mumia was a journalist, a teacher, and a family man, who was railroaded and never had a fair trial. She urged people to keep on fighting for justice for Mumia.

Lawrence Hamm, chairperson of the New Jersey-based POP, stressed the demand that the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections give Mumia the surgery and medical treatment he needs. He said that all prisoners should receive the medical care they need. Hamm called the DOC's refusal to give medical care "a form of torture" that can result in "death by medical neglect."

Hamm also condemned the development of privately-owned prisons, whose owners profit while people, disproportionately Black and Brown, suffer. He called out Geo Group which owns one of the largest detention centers for immigrants in New Jersey.

Some of the young activists who participated in the March for Mumia, Dec. 9, 2025. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Mumia's fight for hep C treatment benefited everyone

Dr. Joseph Harris, who served as Mumia's medical adviser during the prisoner's battle to receive the cure for hepatitis C, reminded the crowd that "we were able to win, not just for Mumia, but for every prisoner who needed the expensive $1,000 per each of 84 pills available at the time."

Cindy Lou, with Mobilization4Mumia, read a statement from the United Campaign to Free Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, the Lebanese freedom fighter for Palestine, who was released from a French prison in July after serving 20 years. It noted: "Solidarity with revolutionary prisoners, with Mumia Abu-Jamal as with Georges Abdallah, with all revolutionary political prisoners, is an urgent collective task that must be carried out and pursued.

"The conviction that victory is possible in this specific struggle must be based on experience, which shows that, in the long haul, resistance and mobilisation ultimately pay off. Resisting, continuing to resist, is not a tactical choice specific to one stage of the struggle, it is a strategy and a historical process."

Dr. Alvarez said that through multiple documents and legal briefs the American Public Health Association has raised that prison abolition is a public health issue.

Jian White, one of the younger participants who spent multiple days on the march, told the rally — that included dozens of younger activists — "We know what is necessary at this time.

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OUR PRISONERS
ARE OUR MORAL COMPASS FREE THEM ALL!
END MEDICAL NEGLECT
RELEASE OUR ELDERS
UNITE TO FREE MUMIA
& ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS
WE MARCH BECAUSE
FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL
POLITICAL JOURNALIST IMPRISONED 42+ YEARS
FREE THEM ALL!
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Corrections
Mumia won Rep-C treatment in 2017 for PA prisoners!

March for Mumia at rally end outside SCI Mahanoy, Frackville, Pennsylvania, Dec. 9, 2025. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

'Zorro' jailhouse lawyer's saga

By Betsey Piette

Unlike the myth of Zorro — who wielded his sword at a moment's notice to win justice on behalf of a disenfranchised town — in real life Bryant Arroyo, imprisoned in Pennsylvania, is in the vanguard whipping out his pen like Zorro's sword to challenge the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections when it violates prisoners' constitutional rights.

Workers World recently interviewed Arroyo, whose Zorro jailhouse lawyer saga began in January 2024 when he challenged the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Coal Township over medical negligence in failing to accommodate inmates with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Workers World: Can you tell us more about this conflict?

Bryant Arroyo: When I assisted comrade William (Billy) Rinick to get a prosthetic for his left knee and surgery for his atrophied right foot, I was confronted by a posse of officers from the Security Department who expeditiously had me cuffed and whisked away to the Restricted Housing Unit.

My only alleged misconduct charge was rule #29 — "engaging in, or encouraging unauthorized Group Activity" — for assisting Mr. Rinick to exercise his constitutional rights to receive adequate medical care. While in the Restricted Housing Unit at Coal Township, I was then given three separate misconducts — on February 5, 8 and 20.

WW: What happened with these charges?

BA: The misconduct charges were heard by three different Hearing Examiners. Hearing Examiner T. Knepper dismissed the first misconduct and Hearing Examiner B. Rudzienski dismissed the second misconduct. But Hearing Examiner Rudzienski intentionally failed to dismiss the second misconduct with prejudice, which would have prevented the same unconstitutional charge from being re-filed.

Instead, this irregularity spuriously motivated prison officials to file a third misconduct, which then ended in dismissal with prejudice by Pine Grove's Hearing Examiner (F. Nunez), whose moniker in general population is "90 day Nunez" — due to his pattern and practice of sanctioning inmates to 90 days' disciplinary status in the Restricted Housing Unit.

WW: What happened next?

BA: The misconduct charges revealed a disturbing pattern and practice of retaliation and a concerted, active "campaign of harassment" by the Department of Corrections for exercising my First Amendment Constitutional rights.

I was then transferred 10 hours away from my home (Eastern Pennsylvania) to SCI-Pine Grove (near Erie). There, prison officials began to shackle me with belts and cuffs during my legal virtual visitation calls. The punitive shackling prevented me from participating in legal virtual visits to "access the courts," rendering me unable to hold the phone, share documents, write or use the bathroom.

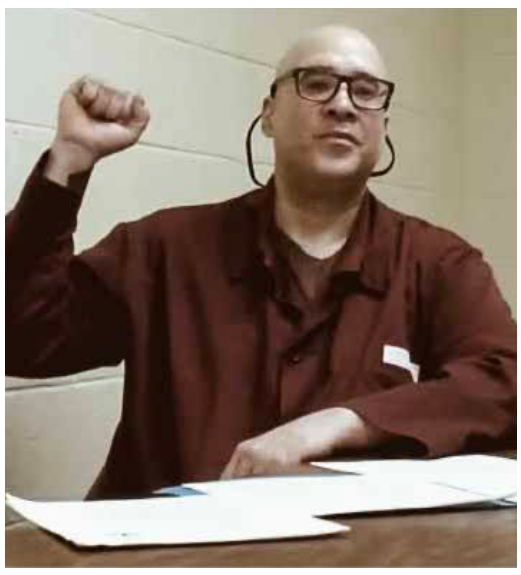
Pine Grove's administration has created an unconstitutional "chilling effect" as I prepare to prosecute my civil action in federal court for jury trial and has impeded my access to obtain newly-discovered evidence in my criminal case under the Post Conviction Relief Act (PCRA) in the Court of Common Pleas to obtain an evidentiary hearing to win a new trial.

WW: How did you challenge this unconstitutional policy?

BA: I filed a grievance on Sept. 25 against prison officials at Pine Grove — Facility Manager Mark Brothers, Deputy Martha Cree, Security Captain E. Box and Captain J. Bouch, the Captain of the Restricted Housing Unit. My grievance asserted that those officials were engaged in a concerted "campaign of harassment" with prison officials at my prior institution — SCI-Coal Township.

In that grievance, I described how I had been unrestrained for the prior 70 weeks of virtual legal visits; but that as soon as prison officials attempted to transfer me to yet another prison and then backed down from that attempt, the shackling began.

In response to my grievance, Major Sumner (C.O. IV) declared, "You are housed in a level 5 housing unit, which requires certain security measures to be followed, which includes 6.5.1 Section K., No. 8 sub. section No. 9, which states 'appropriate restraints shall remain on the inmate while he/she is in the visiting area.'"



Bryant Arroyo, Feb. 2021

WW: So you challenged Major Sumner by pointing out the ambiguous, punitive and unconstitutional nature of the policy which was selectively and vindictively applied for several reasons. Can you tell us more?

BA: First, it applies to general visiting areas, not to virtual visitation held in an adjacent, secured room; and especially, not to virtual legal visitations held in a secured room installed with an aperture for removing the restraints. Secondly, the arbitrary policy violated my constitutional right to "access the courts" [Bounds v. Smith, 430 U.S. 817 (1977)] and my Sixth Amendment Constitutional rights, because it renders me unable to hold the phone, share notes and even use the bathroom during legal visits.

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MARCH FOR MUMIA

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Baba Zayid Muhammad speaking at rally, Frackville, Pennsylvania, Dec. 9, 2025.

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Time is up for this system. Time is up for imperialism. They can't derail this movement. They can't derail our solidarity for Mumia, who has been incarcerated for 44 years because of his strong analysis of the corporate state."

White expressed solidarity with the "elders who have held up this movement and inspired us since day one."

Jacky Hortaut from France representing Libérons Mumia, Schuylkill County resident Rubina Tareen, Pastor Keith Collins and YahNé Ndgo also addressed the assembled crowd. Gabriel Bryant chaired the event.

The protest march, which began in Philadelphia's Germantown section on Nov 28, was organized by the March for Mumia coalition, which included the Abolitionist Law Center, Amigos de Mumia, The Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, le Collectif français LIBERONS MUMIA, Detroit Jericho Movement, Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, Freiheit für Mumia Abu-Jamal, International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Mobilization4Mumia, The Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, People's Organization for Progress, Philly Muslim Freedom Fund, Prison Radio, Workers World Party and more.

A video of the event is available at tinyurl.com/5djn58sp. ☐

Houston activists in solidarity with March for Mumia

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Houston activists held a demonstration on Dec. 6 outside of the hall of the Fraternal Order of Police in solidarity with the 103-mile March For Mumia that took place in Pennsylvania from Nov. 28 until Dec. 9. It was day nine of the long march on Dec. 6, and the highlight of our protest was a phone call from Brother Zayid Muhammad who called in to our demonstration from Pennsylvania. Muhammad described the march taking place in really cold weather, but no one was complaining as longtime political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal was facing a lack of desperately-needed medical care.

Several of those attending the Houston protest were with the Campaign to Free Xinachtli, a Texas political prisoner who is elderly and in need of serious medical care, as is Mumia. We got positive responses from people passing by and committing to fight against the elder abuse in prisons from Texas to State Correctional Institute Mahanoy in Frackville, Pennsylvania, where Mumia is imprisoned. ☐

Mumia supporters, Houston, Dec. 6, 2025. PHOTO: MARIA SALAZAR

Texas political prisoner urgently needs health care

By Gloria Rubac
Austin, Texas

Supporters of Texas prisoner Xinachtli demonstrated at the Texas governor's mansion in Austin on Dec. 13 to demand immediate medical care for this elderly activist who has been held in solitary confinement for 23 of the 29 years he has been incarcerated.

It is well-documented that most incarcerated people in the U.S. receive horrible medical care. And for those who are elders, abuse is severe.

At the rally, Maria Salazar, a facilitator for the Campaign to Free Xinachtli, told the crowd: "We are here today to demand that Xinachtli is released from prison and gets justice for the elder abuse that he has experienced in the McConnell Unit, in Beeville, Texas. In the last six months, this includes losing his ability to walk, leaving him in a wheelchair. He has lost his mobility and is unable to stand on his own. He is experiencing numbness in his hands and feet, he is experiencing potential memory loss, and his vision is declining.

"Because of the conditions on the McConnel Unit, which includes a rat infestation, starvation of needed nutrition, and isolation, he has been unable to recover or even slightly heal. The most recent decline in his health happened after two major falls — one in the shower where he was not given any disability accommodations and the second one in his cell where he fell and experienced injury to the scalp."

Austin protest, Dec. 13, 2025. PHOTO: CAMPAIGN TO FREE XINACHTLI

Due to intense pressure from supporters, Xinachtli was recently transferred to the University of Texas Medical Branch Hospital in Galveston. Activists from Houston, Austin and San Antonio were militant and firm in their demands.

Once he leaves the hospital, they ask that Xinachtli is either transferred to an ADA (American with Disabilities Act)-accessible geriatric and medical unit, preferably the Richard P. LeBlanc Unit in Beaumont, Texas, or receives approval of Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS) so he can receive appropriate medical care outside of the abusive environment of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Salazar ended by saying, "Movements around the world are showing us what people power can accomplish. From the resistance of the Palestinian people, to the self determination of the people of Venezuela, and countless political prisoners like Mumia Abu-Jamal, Monsour Owolabi, and Kamau Sadiki, we are lucky to have their guidance of what it means to fight for the right to live."

Incarcerated as Alvaro Hernandez, Xinachtli is now 73 years old. He can receive letters of encouragement by writing to: Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Alvaro Hernandez #00255735; P.O. Box 660400; Dallas, TX 75266

Follow on Instagram: tinyurl.com/5hcawc6v ☐

'Zorro' jailhouse lawyer's saga

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The courts have also recognized a Constitutional right to receive adequate assistance from persons trained in the law [Younger v. Gilmore, 404 U.S. 15 (1971)]. Furthermore, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the general doctrine of deference to prison officials in these matters does not apply to communications between inmates and legal counsel [Procunier v. Martinez, 416 U.S. 396 (1974)].

WW: Despite the Zorro jailhouse lawyer Arroyo's medical diagnoses of carpal tunnel syndrome and arthritis in both hands, he has defiantly managed to file grievances, and his federal lawsuit (U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania — Civ. No. 1:23-cv-01083) unprecedentedly brought against all three State Correctional Institutions — Frackville, Coal Township and Pine Grove (each of them moving him further and further away from his family), all serve as replete evidence that he has been on the receiving end of unconstitutional, vengeful, unlawful and retaliatory actions by prison officials for exercising his First Amendment rights.

His is a saga of David versus Goliath — part of the ongoing daily struggle of inmates within the prison-industrial complex in the United States to fight injustice and uphold their basic humanity. This Zorro jailhouse lawyer knows his pen is mightier than the sword to write out his ironclad Constitutional defenses; to win the dismissal of all three misconducts; and to continue to highlight the pattern and use of retaliation by the Nation of Prisons in the prison-industrial complex which create a "chilling effect" on prison advocacy and on prisoners like him.

Arroyo concluded our interview: "No good deed goes unpunished! The key to freedom is in your mind! Use your pen! Refuse to cower! Speak truth to power! Peace, liberty, justice and freedom to my brothers and sisters!"

Messages to Arroyo can be sent to Smart Communications/PA DOC, Bryant Arroyo, CU-1126, SCI-Pine Grove, P.O. Box 33028, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733. ☐

Progressive forces denounce ‘electoral coup’ in Honduras

By Martha Grevatt

Voters in Honduras went to the polls in a national election on Nov. 30; as of this writing no candidate has yet been named president. In the midst of numerous breakdowns in the electoral system (TREP), irregularities, security issues, evidence of fraud and blatant interference by President Donald Trump, current President Xiomara Castro de Zelaya has called the elections “null.”

Current vote tallies reportedly show right-wing candidate Nasty Asfura of the National Party beating the other right-wing candidate, Salvador Nasralla of the Liberal Party, by a slim margin, with Rixi Moncada of the ruling LIBRE Party trailing far behind. Yet pre-election polls either gave Moncada a slight advantage over the other two candidates or showed the three running very close. About 15% of the votes still are supposed to be recounted due to inconsistencies in the data.

President Castro stated: “We are experiencing a process marked by threats, coercion, manipulation by the TREP and alteration of the will of the people. These actions constitute an ongoing electoral coup that we will denounce. ... My duty as president and as a woman who emerged from the resistance is to defend democracy. National dignity and the sovereign will of the people, that is an unbreakable mandate in our Constitution. That is why I affirm that these elections, as revealed by the 26 audio recordings presented, are invalid.” (Telesur English YouTube, Dec. 10)

The reference to the “26 audio recordings” pertains to statements — made public by LIBRE representative on the National Electoral Council (CNE) Marlon Ochoa — wherein National Party leaders outlined plans to manipulate election results in collusion with the Honduran military.

On Dec. 12, the National Congress of Honduras quoted from its President Luis Redondo, who stated that problems with the biometric recognition process “add to other serious inconsistencies that directly compromise the transparency and legitimacy of the electoral process.” (Congreso Nacional de Honduras on X)

Trump promotes National Party

LIBRE has denounced Trump’s blatant interference in the Honduran election by openly backing Asfura before the election. On Dec. 1, Trump stated on his social media platform, Truth Social: “Looks like Honduras is trying to change the results of their Presidential Election. If they do, there will be hell to pay!”

There are reports of threats to block remittances of funds to Hondurans from family members working in the U.S.

Purportedly neutral observing bodies such as the Organization of American States and the European Union were silent on Trump’s clear violations of Honduran sovereignty and his attempts to influence the outcome of the election.

Hondurans are also furious at Trump for the pardon of former President Juan Orlando Hernández, known as JOH, who was convicted in U.S. courts in 2024 of drug trafficking charges. JOH is alleged to have been involved in the importation of 400 tons of cocaine to the U.S. and using proceeds and bribes from drug traffickers to fund his election campaign in 2013.

The pardon of JOH exposes the extreme hypocrisy of the Trump administration, which has used the phony “war on drugs” as an excuse to attack small boats in the Caribbean, murdering almost 90 people and threatening Venezuela.

If Asfura does become president, the main beneficiaries will be foreign corporations and the Honduran oligarchy. These are the forces behind the special economic zones known as ZEDEs and the upholding of the law creating ZEDEs after Castro blocked the law in 2022. The notorious Próspera ZEDE is described as “a private, for-profit city, with its own government that courts foreign investors through low taxes and light regulation.” (nytimes.com, Aug. 28, 2024)

LIBRE Party rally, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Dec. 9, 2025.

President Castro has called on the Honduran masses to protest the electoral process in the streets. On Dec. 12 she stated, “We condemn the blatant foreign interference of the President of the United States Donald Trump in the elections; his threats prevented free voting rights and stopped the people from expressing their will.” (Partido LIBRE Facebook)

LIBRE held an “Extraordinary National Assembly” on Dec. 13 in Ciguatepeque. In a statement to the assembly, the Coordination of LIBRE Party D19 USA-Canada and Costa Rica stated: “We denounce the intervention of structures of bipartisanship [of the two right-wing Honduran parties, the National and Liberal parties] and sectors linked to organized crime and corruption, who seek to retain control of the State while diminishing the rights of the people.

“We also condemn the interference of foreign actors, including the United States government and its embassy, as well as far-right sectors, who openly pressured in favor of the imposed candidate [Asfura], violating the sovereignty and autonomy of Honduras.”

D19 added that it “calls on the population to remain vigilant and united, promoting civic mobilization as a legitimate mechanism to defend democracy and national sovereignty.” ❐

Philadelphia says: ‘No War on Venezuela!’

By Joe Piette

A packed room of Philadelphia activists heard Geo Maher, abolitionist educator, organizer and author; Elio Cordova, economist and Magister Scientiarium in International Economics in Venezuela; Fran Cienfuegos, organizer on behalf of the Frente Latino Anti-Fascista; Betsey Piette, managing editor of Workers World newspaper; and Auston Cole, National Co-coordinator of Black Alliance for Peace extol an anti-imperialist solidarity against U.S. war on Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba or anywhere. Georjellis Rujaro chaired the meeting. In addition to those in the room, over 50 people registered on Zoom for the hybrid meeting.

Speakers noted that in escalating the attacks on Venezuela, Donald Trump is acting in the interests of the U.S. ruling class, which has long sought to control the country’s vast oil reserves. Trump is following the same pattern of “full spectrum domination” practiced by former President Barack Obama. Geo Maher reminded the audience that Trump started his term in office by threatening to take over the Panama Canal in order to keep China out of the region.

Questions discussed by the panelists included the costly impact of sanctions against Venezuela, Cuba and other countries in the region and the challenges of developing socialism in the face of a dangerous and dying capitalist system.

Speakers also addressed the challenges of a growing fascism faced by the antiwar and anti-imperialist movements at this time in the U.S.

The Dec. 11 hybrid meeting was organized and endorsed by the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Korea Peace Committee of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Democratic Socialists of America, W.E.B. Du Bois Movement School for Abolition and Reconstruction, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Workers World Party.

“No War on Venezuela” public meeting, Philadelphia, Dec. 11, 2025. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Delicious arepas were served to all attending in person. To view a recording of the meeting, please visit: tinyurl.com/uk8rj65w, Passcode: k&H5UdcQ. ❐

Venezuela conference: U.S. delegates defy ‘no-fly zone’

Continued from page 1

Western imperialism. Tactically, it was an opportunity to defy the illegal, U.S.-imposed no-fly zone through the determination to hold this event by any means necessary.

Mairead Skehan Gillis speaking at Caracas conference.

A key point made by Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez at the conference was the continued influence of the 19th century Monroe Doctrine on U.S. neocolonial foreign policy in contrast to Simón Bolivar's plans for the unification of the people of the Americas, which remains at the forefront of Venezuela's relations in the region.

Building a global anti-imperialist front

Panelists also highlighted the development of Popular Power in Venezuela; the resurgence of anti-colonialist resistance in Africa; ending the continued genocide against the Palestinian people; the role of the corporate media in propagating an information war against the socialist processes of the Global South; and the need to amplify the voices of the youth generations to strengthen our movements.

On December 11, the U.S. delegation also participated in the formation of the Francisco de Miranda Solidarity Committee between the people of Venezuela and the people of the United States. Residents of the Socialist Commune El Panal 2021 presented the proposal to formalize this new mechanism of concrete interchange given the need to unite against a common enemy and share updates on what the respective people's movements are tackling.

The delegation talked about the increasing attacks on the U.S. working class, including ICE raids in all major cities, an unaffordable cost of living, rising unemployment and homelessness, cuts to social benefits like SNAP (food stamps) and Social Security, a crumbling health care system led by reactionaries without regard for science, rampant racism promoted by the ruling class and the war against the LGBTQIA2S+ community. The delegation also stressed that a large majority of the U.S. population is opposed to a war against Venezuela that is built on lies while it becomes increasingly difficult to survive in the U.S.

There is an undeniable need to overthrow capitalist imperialism and replace it with a socialist system built by the working class. This newly-founded solidarity committee is a way to simultaneously deepen the resistance against the ruling class, defend Venezuela's revolutionary process and strengthen internationalist unity through practice.

Long live the Bolivarian Revolution! U.S. hands off Venezuela!

Victory to the Resistance! ¡Venceremos!

The writer represented Workers World Party at the December 9-11 conference.

On the 38th anniversary of their founding

Hamas reaffirms objectives

The Hamas Online English Mirror posted the following statement on Dec. 14, 2025.

On the 38th anniversary of the founding of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), we affirm the following:

– The Al-Aqsa Flood Operation is a firmly-rooted milestone in our people's path of struggle and independence. We follow the path of the martyred leaders, committed to the blood and sacrifices of our people until liberation of the land and holy sites, whatever the sacrifices.

– Throughout two full years of aggression against our people in the Gaza Strip, the occupation has succeeded only in the criminal targeting of defenseless civilians and civilian life. It has failed in achieving its aggressive objectives despite its brutal war machine, fascist army and U.S. support.

– Hamas has complied with all terms of the ceasefire agreement, while the occupation continues to breach it daily, fabricating flimsy pretexts to evade its obligations. Here, we reaffirm the following:

1. We demand the mediators and the U.S. administration pressure the occupation and compel its fascist government to implement the terms of the agreement and to condemn its ongoing, systematic violations.
2. We demand the U.S. administration fulfill its declared commitments, adhere to the path of the ceasefire agreement, pressure the occupation to respect the ceasefire, stop its violations and aggression against our people, open the crossings — especially the Rafah crossing in both directions — and increase the entry of aid.
3. We categorically reject all forms of guardianship or mandate over the Gaza Strip and over any inch of our occupied lands. We warn against aligning with attempts aimed at displacement and re-engineering Gaza based on the enemy's plans. We affirm that our people alone decide who governs them; they are capable of managing their own affairs and possess the legitimate right to defend themselves, liberate their land and establish their fully sovereign independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

4. We call upon our Arab and Islamic Ummah (community) — its leaders, governments, peoples and organizations — to take urgent action and exert all efforts to pressure the occupation to stop its aggression, open the crossings, allow the entry of aid, immediately implement relief, shelter and reconstruction plans and provide the requirements for a normal human life for over two million Palestinians.
5. The crimes of the Zionist enemy during the two years of genocide and starvation in the Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem are systematic, full-fledged crimes that will not be subject to statutes of limitations. The International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court must continue to pursue the occupation and its criminal leaders, prosecute them and prevent them from escaping punishment.

– Occupied Jerusalem and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque will remain the title of the conflict with the Zionist entity, which has no legitimacy or sovereignty over them. The Judaization and settlement/colonial plans will not succeed in erasing their landmarks. Jerusalem will remain the eternal capital of Palestine, and Al-Aqsa Mosque will remain purely Islamic.

– The crimes of the fascist occupation government against our prisoners and detainees in its prisons constitute a sadistic policy and a systematic retaliatory approach that has turned prisons into killing fields. We affirm that the issue of liberating our prisoners will remain at the forefront of our national priorities. We denounce the state of international silence towards their just cause and call on the international community and rights groups to pressure the occupation to stop its crimes against them.

– Our inalienable national rights, particularly our people's right to resistance in all its forms, are legitimate rights under international laws and humanitarian norms that cannot be waived or compromised. ☐

Amplify the voices of incarcerated Palestinian women

The Samidoun Palestinian Political Prisoner Solidarity Network posted the following statement on Nov. 25, 2025.

Today, November, 25, 2025 — the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Girls and Gender Minorities — we, Dismantle Damon, solidarity campaign for Palestinian women prisoners, wish to express our full support and solidarity with all our resisters: all Palestinian prisoners currently incarcerated in Zionist prisons, as well as our sisters detained in the jails of Arab normalization regimes and in imperialist detention centers for their mobilization against the ongoing genocide and in support of the Palestinian resistance.

Like their entire people across all geographies, inside and outside the prisons, in Gaza, the West Bank, the occupied interior, refugee camps and the Shatat, our incarcerated sisters resist daily with strength, dignity, determination and courage the assaults, torture and physical, psychological and sexual violence perpetrated by the occupation forces.

The repeated testimonies of prisoners released since October 7, 2023, their emaciated faces, the marks of shackles, torture and beatings, the signs of forced amputations, their psychological condition, the number of martyrs (81 prisoners assassinated by the occupation forces in colonial prisons), provide a clear picture of the violence, famine and physical and psychological torture imposed by the Zionist regime on Palestinian prisoners.

Over the past two years, several Palestinian organizations have collected testimonies from Palestinian prisoners, men and women, from Gaza, after their release from Zionist prisons. In these hundreds of testimonies, the released prisoners recount and describe in detail the abuse, violence, torture and sexual assaults they endured.

What emerges is the systematic practice of torture, in all its forms, by the occupation forces. With courage and dignity, many of these prisoners have testified in detail about the sexual assaults and rapes they suffered in Zionist prisons.

In the latest report by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, published on November 10, 2025, one Palestinian woman prisoner and three released Palestinian prisoners, all four from Gaza, describe the rapes they were subjected to, committed by multiple soldiers, through the use of objects and, for one of them, by one of the Zionists guards' dogs.

But these horrific accounts describe the reality of the Zionist, settler-colonial project for which rape is a weapon of war, just like the child- and woman-mimicking drones manufactured in English factories; the U.S.-made F-35s; the Merkavas containing parts produced in Germany; or the machine guns, explosives, mines, grenades and other weapons containing components manufactured in France.

A question arises for us: What do we do with the testimonies that reach us from these prisoners, who courageously choose to speak about the vile abuses they endured?

These accounts show that violence and sexual assault, including rape, are deliberately used as weapons of war against Palestinian prisoners, regardless of their gender, in an attempt to break them physically and psychologically and to extinguish within them any potential for resistance.

For these prisoners, to speak is to fight colonial violence and to resist the consequences of these tortures. It is to expose the atrocity and horror of colonialism and to name those responsible in order to end the impunity guaranteed by a racial consensus within the colonial society and by the direct support of imperialist powers and normalization regimes.

Their testimonies are powerful acts of resistance in the face of a colonial and imperial order. For this reason, the Zionist regime seeks to render their stories invisible, to discredit them and violently represses those who choose to speak.

We must continue to amplify these testimonies and mobilize against what makes these acts of violence and torture possible and guarantees impunity for the torturers: the perpetuation of the Zionist colonial project and the imperialist policies of our governments. ☐

For the baby ancestors in Gaza

A book of poetry by Julia Wright

From a book publication news release:

Detroit, Michigan: Fighting-Words and its publishing team are proud to present a volume of poetry by Julia Wright entitled, "For the baby ancestors in Gaza and other poems." Ms. Wright writes in her Introduction: "Then came October 7th and the genocidal months over two years of writing near daily poems for Palestine, as if I was keeping a journal and as if the least I could do was to give CPR at a distance."

Julia Wright is the elder daughter of the late African American novelist, journalist and poet, Richard Wright. She is a descendant of the survivors of the 1919 Elaine Massacre through her lynched great uncle, Silas Hoskins. A Pan Africanist, she served under Kwame Nkrumah until the CIA-abetted coup d'etat in Ghana in 1966.

She subsequently worked with James Forman in SNCC [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee] and went on to attend the first cultural Pan African Festival in Algiers alongside Kathleen and Eldridge Cleaver of the Black Panther Party. In Paris, France, she cofounded, in 1995, Wednesday rallies for political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier that are still ongoing.

The foreword to Ms. Wright's book of poems is by Yousef M. Aljamal, editor of If I Must Die and executor of the papers of Refaat Alareer, poet and teacher targeted and murdered in Gaza by the Israel Occupation Forces.

This 68-page volume contains 29 poems and sells for $5 plus $3 for shipping per volume. It can be ordered via email to moratorium@moratorium-mi.org. CashApp payments can be made to $MoratoriumNow1 or checks can be sent to Moratorium Now Coalition, 5920 Second Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202. ☐

WORKERS WORLD
editorials

Smash the 'Trump Corollary'!

A lot can be said about the Trump-era National Security Strategy 2025 for U.S. imperialism published this November. Similar documents in the 1990s expressed confidence that a U.S.-dominated century would follow, and that the counterrevolution in the Soviet Union meant the "end of history."

While it bragged of Trump's "accomplishments," the document also noted U.S. losses over the past 35 years, blaming them on prior administrations.

This editorial, however, will consider just one aspect of the document: its concentration on using U.S. military, economic and media power to dominate the Western Hemisphere and use its control there to reset U.S. imperialism as the world's preeminent superpower.

The document reads, "Strengthening supply chains in this Hemisphere will reduce dependencies and increase American economic resilience." This will make "it harder for non-Hemispheric competitors to increase their influence in the region. And even as we prioritize commercial diplomacy, we will work to strengthen our security partnerships — from weapons sales to intelligence sharing to joint exercises."

Readers might notice how the above quotation resembles the essence of a presidential statement of early U.S. history. James Monroe, the fifth president of the young slavocracy, a weak but rapidly developing settler state that had defeated the British king, issued the policy statement in 1823.

NO WAR ON VENEZUELA!
NO TROOPS ON OUR STREETS!
NO WAR ON VENEZUELA!
NO TROOPS IN OUR CITIES!
END THE GENOCIDE
NO TECH FOR GENOCIDE
New York City march, Nov. 22, 2025 WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

In the 1820s, the inhabitants of Spanish and Portuguese colonies south and west of the United States, from Mexico to Argentina, were expelling the Spanish- and Portuguese-appointed rulers and establishing independent nations. The Monroe Doctrine declared to the European colonial powers to keep out of the Western Hemisphere, although in 1823 the U.S. had little military power to enforce this demand. The 2025 strategic policy warns not French and British colonialism — but China and Russia.

Some 1820s independence leaders, such as Simón Bolívar, recognized that the Monroe Doctrine also meant the U.S. rulers considered the whole hemisphere their backyard.

It's no accident that the new National Security Strategy calls its Western Hemisphere policy the "Trump Corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine. Trump already has declared he wants to "buy" Greenland, annex Canada, control the Panama Canal, send troops into Mexico, overthrow Colombia's president and support vile reactionaries in Argentina and Brazil. Now he has deployed a hyperdestructive war fleet in the Caribbean Sea aimed especially at Venezuela, and at Cuba and Nicaragua.

The document states: "The United States must be preeminent in the Western Hemisphere as a condition of our security and prosperity — a condition that allows us to assert ourselves confidently where and when we need to in the region."

That's what the warships aim at — establishing U.S. preeminence by murdering the peoples of South America and the Caribbean. The White House has announced that U.S. imperialism won't allow the really sovereign nations of the hemisphere to remain independent. U.S. piracy against a tanker delivering Venezuelan oil to Cuba exposes this goal.

With this understanding of the "Trump Corollary," Workers World condemns the document for its arrogant declaration of war against the peoples south of the U.S. and its threats against peoples to the north.

Down with the Monroe Doctrine! Down with the Trump Corollary!

Defend the sovereignty of Venezuela and its allies and neighbors! ❐

Trump's all-out war on Africans, at home and abroad

When it comes to Donald Trump's white supremacist rants against people of African descent, there are no borders. In early November, he threatened to militarily invade Nigeria, the most populous country on the African continent, for "anti-Christian" violence. The Nigerian government vehemently rejected this claim, characterizing it as baseless.

This was followed in late November with Trump having the unmitigated gall to disinvite leaders of the South African government to the 2026 G20 conference slated to be held in the U.S. The reason? Trump claims that the Black-led government discriminates against white South Africans. It has been a mere 30 years since the heroic mass struggle coupled with armed resistance dismantled the legalized apartheid system after more than two centuries of white supremacist rule.

This year's G20 conference was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The G20 brings together representatives of 19 of the world's largest national economies, plus the European Union and the African Union. South Africa has the most advanced economy in Africa, but has not eliminated capitalist inequality for the Black masses there. South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted this year's conference.

Upon hearing that Trump called for banning his country's attendance at the 2026 conference, Ramaphosa commented: "South Africa is a sovereign, constitutional, democratic country and does not appreciate insults from another country about its worth in participating in global platforms. South Africa will continue to participate as a full, active and constructive member of the G20." (New York Times, Nov. 26)

In early August, Trump imposed a 30% tariff on goods exported from South Africa, along with drastically cutting foreign aid, most notably in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention.

The South African government was the first country to bring war crimes accusations before the International Criminal Court at The Hague, Netherlands, in early 2024 against the Israeli regime for its racist genocide committed against the Palestinian population in Gaza. This act unleashed a firestorm of criticism against South Africa, first by the Joe Biden administration and now by the Trump administration, which continues to arm the Zionist regime's ongoing genocide.

And in early December, Trump extended his racist diatribe against other people of African descent when he referred to the Somali community in Minneapolis as "garbage." Trump has ordered Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) masked thugs to descend upon the largest Somali migrant population in the U.S. in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, with harassment, arrests and deportations. Political solidarity for the Somali people, a majority Muslims, is rapidly growing in other communities, as it has in other cities, against any ICE invasion.

It is no accident that Trump is targeting Somalis, Nigerians and Black South Africans, as well as Haitians, Venezuelans and Central and South Americans, as part of his war against migrants, especially migrants of color. Coming from an immigrant family himself, Trump has stated on more than one occasion that his goal is to restore a once dominant white population inside the U.S., as more and more Black and Brown people were forced to leave their homelands to survive and migrate to the U.S. in search of a better life.

This is why Trump has offered several thousand white South Africans incentives to move to the U.S., not because they are persecuted by a Black government. Trump is not against all immigration to the U.S. but wants to pick and choose who is allowed to migrate.

Trump's war on migrants is in reality a war to weaken the entire multinational working class's ability to fight at full strength in its class interests to liberate itself from all forms of capitalist inequality. This is why it is imperative to build class unity, starting with the most oppressed, to challenge the class enemy — the billionaire ruling class — to win workers' power. ❐

End the abuse! Free Dr. Aafia Siddiqui!

By Tania Siddiqi

For over two decades, political prisoner Dr. Aafia Siddiqui has been held captive without just cause, in prisons across the world. From 2003 until 2008, she was a ghost prisoner in CIA black sites in Afghanistan, including the notorious Bagram Air Base, where she was routinely beaten and violated.

According to Aafia's attorney, Clive Stafford Smith, she is the only woman who underwent the full U.S. Rendition to Torture program. In 2010, Aafia, an innocent Pakistani citizen, was sentenced to 86 years in U.S. federal prison. Since then, she's been carrying out her virtual life sentence at Federal Medical Center (FMC) Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas, the only federal medical prison for women in the U.S., infamously known as the "Hospital of Horrors."

FMC Carswell – The Hospital of Horrors

Established in 1994, Carswell has an extensive history of subjecting incarcerated women to inhumane prison conditions. Countless prisoners receive inadequate treatment to meet their health-related needs. Among incarcerated women, Carswell is known as "Killswell" due to the frequency of preventable deaths caused by the prison's medical neglect.

Carswell is also a site of systemic sexual abuse. According to a 2022 federal report on Just Detention website, from 2014 to 2018, "35 women at Carswell reported they were sexually assaulted by a staff member — the most of any federal women's prison." (tinyurl.com/3dj67m4u)

A Senate report found that from 2012 to 2022, Carswell prison staff sexually abused 22 women in federal custody, more than any prison during that decade. (wfaa.com, March 11, 2024)

Carswell employees who have been convicted of sexually abusing incarcerated women include, but are not limited to, a chaplain, Catholic priest, gynecologist, case manager and Federal Bureau of Prisons lieutenant.

Like many others at the Hospital of Horrors, Aafia's ongoing health problems remain unaddressed, and she has been sexually abused countless times by prison staff. However, unlike most, Aafia is held at Carswell's notorious Administrative Segregation Unit (Ad Seg), a section of the prison known to use even harsher forms of violence against incarcerated people.

Ad Seg – a prison within a prison

Ad Seg is a high-security unit that currently houses very few prisoners. The conditions in Ad Seg are functionally equivalent to solitary confinement: incarcerated people are severely restricted and entirely cut off from the rest of the prison. All services (for example, education, mental health and recreation) are provided within the unit. On the uncommon occasions when prisoners are required to leave Ad Seg, Carswell is completely shut down.

The self-contained nature of the unit, paired with the permissibility of Carswell prison staff to abuse incarcerated people, makes Aafia particularly vulnerable to attack. She has been in solitary confinement for over 15 years, longer than any person in a U.S. federal women's prison.

Join the 'Free Aafia Movement'

Earlier in March, on the online program "Surviving State Violence: The Case of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui and Incarceration in Women's Prisons," Kendra Drysdale, a Carswell survivor and the Dublin Prison Solidarity Coalition Advocacy Coordinator, shared the following about Aafia's confinement conditions:

"I can only image what it's like in what is basically the solitary confinement unit, the maximum-security unit where [Aafia] Siddiqui is held, and how scary it is. At least we had our sisterhood to protect us in some ways. But without having that, I cannot imagine how horrific it would be and what kind of treatment you would receive from staff that feel like they have all the power." (View the entire program on *youtu.be/ZOGW633rRho* and read more at *workers.org/2025/03/84617*)

It is our duty to support the Movement to Free Dr. Aafia Siddiqui and to demand her unconditional release from the Hospital of Horrors.

Free Dr. Aafia Siddiqui!

Free All Political Prisoners!

For media or to get involved with the Free Aafia Movement, contact Tania Siddiqi at tania.aafiamovement@gmail.com.

For updates on Aafia's case, follow the Aafia Movement on Instagram @aafiamovementofficial.

Murders in the Caribbean

WW COMMENTARY

Can antiwar forces stop Trump's aggression?

By John Catalinotto

December 13. The U.S. Naval Death Fleet in the Caribbean escalated toward open war earlier this week by committing an act of piracy against a ship carrying oil from Venezuela to Cuba.

This escalation comes at a time when Congress is openly questioning the legality of the fleet's unjustifiable attacks on small motorboats in the region, where it has murdered more than 85 people while destroying more than 20 boats since August.

Does the conflict among and within the ruling-class parties — the MAGA Republicans and the Democrats — create an opening that allows the antiwar and anti-imperialist movements and working-class parties to mobilize mass resistance to the war? This article will review the recent events in order to open a discussion of this question by evaluating the forces involved.

In mid-November, six Democratic Party members of the U.S. Congress, all veterans of the U.S. military or intelligence agencies, issued a video titled "Don't Give Up the Ship." Its message was that U.S. troops of all ranks have not only the right but the **duty** to refuse to obey illegal or unconstitutional orders. They said that "I was only following orders" would be no defense. The six also promised that they would "have the back" of troops who disobey illegal orders.

The U.S. Army chain of command, from The Bond, newspaper of the antiwar American Servicemen's Union, circa 1968.

Disrupting the chain of command

This unanticipated defiance from Congress members woke up Trump, who on Truth Social charged them with sedition and invoked the death penalty, although the six had simply explained the law to the troops. White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt attacked the six for disrupting the chain of command.

Two weeks later, a Nov. 28 Washington Post article exposed Secretary of War Pete Hegseth's order last Sept. 2 to "Kill everyone." Hegseth, who nominally runs the Pentagon — his Department of War Crimes — gave the order to Adm. Frank Bradley, who was in charge of the Caribbean fleet at that moment.

The first missile strike destroyed the motorboat, killed nine crew members and left two survivors hanging onto floating boat parts. A second strike killed them. Such a murder of helpless survivors is the exact example used in military field manuals to educate troops about what constitutes an illegal order.

Former military lawyers and Congress members from both parties have demanded that U.S. war crimes be investigated. This sharpens the conflict between Trump's pro-fascist cabal and its ruling-class opposition, mainly Democrats. Starting from the top of the military chain of command, the primary war criminals are Trump, Hegseth and Adm. Bradley, in that order.

It shows the character of these bosses that Trump said he would not have wanted a second strike, Press Secretary Leavitt (speaking for Trump) said Hegseth gave the order, and Hegseth said he was not in the room when Bradley gave the order. In other words, each "boss" made his underling a scapegoat, just in case.

Apparently, Admiral Alvin Holsey, who announced he would resign his command of the fleet in October and finished 37 years of military service in the Navy on Dec. 12, had an intelligent assessment of the (lack of) character of his "superiors."

Two sets of illegal orders

Trump has been issuing two sets of illegal orders, one to the fleet in the Caribbean Sea and one to National Guard units in the United States.

Trump's extremely weak pretext for the summary executions at sea — his Big Lie — is that these boats bring dangerous drugs like fentanyl to the United States. Yet Trump pardoned and on Dec. 1 freed former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, who begun serving a 45-year sentence in a U.S. prison for running a major drug cartel. So much for the "war on drugs."

Let's be real. Trump has targeted Venezuela for its political example of defending its sovereignty and for its oil reserves, the greatest in the world.

Trump has also ordered National Guard members into U.S. cities to give armed backup to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) bounty hunters of anyone they think looks or sounds like they might be a migrant. The ICE thugs already face opposition from popular organizations and have used violence against the people. More such illegal violence seems inevitable.

Split in ruling circles

Right now, the Trump administration's pro-fascist criminals wield the immediate threat against Venezuelans and against migrants — and all workers — in the U.S. But the anti-imperialist movement must also be aware that the Republican and Democratic parties both support imperialist wars fought in the interests of the wealthy ruling class.

The six Democratic Party Congress members who spoke out against war crimes themselves spent decades inside the imperialist state apparatus. They may oppose Trump only because they believe his tactics and style will accelerate the decline of U.S. hegemony by creating a disaster. With good reason, they might consider that Trump's cabal is composed of money-grubbing swindlers and incompetents.

U.S. imperialist dominance worldwide is already in steep decline, especially since the 2008-2009 financial crisis and the successful growth of manufacturing in socialist China. U.S. hegemony now depends almost exclusively on military force and the primacy of the U.S. dollar, and both are challenged.

Trump has even retired organs of control like USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development), which used the carrot and the stick. Trump abhors carrots. And by exposing the U.S. Armed Forces as a criminal machine of death and repression, abroad and at home, Trump may accelerate the U.S. decline. Or so his opponents argue.

Still, whatever their motivation, those in Congress who challenge Trump in these two areas create a space for the anti-imperialist movement to act.

Find the way. Offer support. Organize.

None of the six Democrats explicitly called for disrupting the chain of command, as Leavitt charged them with. But disrupting the chain of command is exactly what the antiwar movement must try to do.

The six Democrats have opened the question of soldiers obeying orders — or refusing to obey. It is up to the workers' movement, antiwar movement and anti-imperialist movement to explore how to intervene to spread and organize resistance within the U.S. military. This must be done to stop U.S. aggression abroad and stop the repression of migrants and their supporters within U.S. borders. The movement must operate on the assumption that rank-and-file troops are workers in uniform, even in today's professional military.

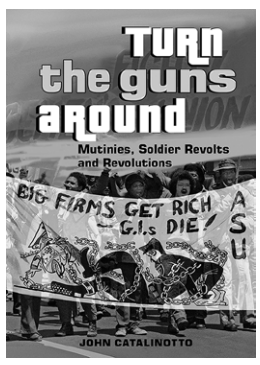
Since the troops were called into Los Angeles earlier this year to support roundups of migrants, some individual National Guard members have already refused to serve. And Senator Elissa Slotkin, one of the six Democrats and a former CIA official, said her office had received numerous calls from active duty troops and guards about what they could do to avoid committing crimes.

There are historical examples from the 1871 Paris Commune to the 1917 Russian Revolution to the 1974 Portuguese revolution when troops started to place their working-class interests ahead of their subservience to the rulers, and it became possible to organize resistance from within the armed forces to orders to slaughter people. It happened enough to speed the end of the war against Vietnam.

If the Trump administration raises the stakes — and the suffering — with a war of aggression against Venezuela, it can again involve U.S. youths in a war with similarities to the lengthy conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan or even Vietnam. If it sends troops into more cities to protect the mercenary ICE troops, it will put them into personal contact with the U.S. working class. The movement can and must reach U.S. troops and National Guard members with the message that they should — and even must — disobey orders and that the movement will defend them.

Trump said the six Democrats committed sedition. The antiwar movement must make the most of it.

Catalinotto is the author of "Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions," World View Forum, New York, 2017. For more information, see workers.org/book/turn-the-guns



WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO

¡Migrantes, sí! ¡ICE, no!

Continúa de página 12

migrantes de tiendas se ven obligados a cerrar sus pequeños negocios indefinidamente para proteger a sus clientes y trabajadores de los ataques del ICE.

Como en cualquier lucha de clases, la represión genera resistencia. Y la resistencia militante que comenzó hace meses en el condado de Los Ángeles se ha extendido a otras partes del país, especialmente a Chicago, Portland, Oregón, Nueva York y, más recientemente, a Charlotte, Carolina del Norte. Como resultado, las comunidades migrantes han sentido el apoyo en esta lucha cada vez que el ICE asoma su fea cabeza.

Las comunidades no migrantes han organizado iniciativas populares utilizando una serie de tácticas para mostrar su solidaridad política con sus hermanos migrantes. Entre ellas se incluyen campañas de denuncia para advertir a los migrantes cuando se avista al ICE en cualquier barrio, bloquear físicamente los vehículos del ICE, obligándoles a retirarse, y recaudar fondos para que los vendedores migrantes paguen sus bienes y servicios y no queden expuestos a la vista de los agentes del ICE en las calles.

Las redadas han provocado tal crisis en Chicago que el alcalde negro de la ciudad, Brandon Johnson, antiguo profesor y organizador del sindicato de profesores, ha convocado una huelga general contra el ICE, lo que ha provocado la ira de Trump.

Trump ha dejado muy claro que su principal objetivo es utilizar el ICE para expulsar al mayor número posible de personas que no hablan inglés, especialmente a las personas de color, para evitar que Estados Unidos se vuelva más negro, más moreno y más obrero.

El Partido Mundo Obrero anima a nuestros lectores a mostrar una solidaridad política y práctica aún más fuerte con los trabajadores a los que el ICE ha tomado como blanco, ya sean aquellos obligados a abandonar sus países de origen situados en el Sur Global o aquellos nacidos en Estados Unidos. Ninguna persona es ilegal.

Al igual que la explotación capitalista no conoce fronteras, la lucha por la unidad y la solidaridad dentro de la clase trabajadora a escala mundial tampoco debería conocerlas. Nuestro enemigo de clase es el mismo: la clase dominante multimillonaria ávida de ganancias y sus matones armados, incluidos el ICE y la policía. ☐

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Manifestación en Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, contra el ICE, 3 de diciembre de 2025.

La guerra total de Trump contra los pueblos africanos, dentro y fuera de Estados Unidos

editorial

Cuando se trata de las diatribas supremacistas blancas de Donald Trump contra las personas de ascendencia africana, no hay fronteras. A principios de noviembre, amenazó con invadir militarmente Nigeria, el país más poblado del continente africano, por la violencia «anticristiana». El gobierno nigeriano rechazó vehementemente esta afirmación, calificándola de infundada.

A finales de noviembre, Trump tuvo la desfachatez de retirar la invitación a los líderes del Gobierno sudafricano a la conferencia del G20 de 2026, que se celebrará en Estados Unidos. ¿El motivo? Trump afirma que el Gobierno liderado por personas negras discrimina a los sudafricanos blancos. Han pasado apenas 30 años desde que la heroica lucha popular, junto con la resistencia armada, desmanteló el sistema legalizado del apartheid tras más de dos siglos de dominio supremacista blanco.

La conferencia del G20 de este año se celebró en Johannesburgo, Sudáfrica. El G20 reúne a representantes de 19 de las economías nacionales más grandes del mundo, además de la Unión Europea y la Unión Africana. Sudáfrica tiene la economía más avanzada de África, pero no ha eliminado la desigualdad capitalista para las masas negras del país. El presidente de Sudáfrica, Cyril Ramaphosa, fue el anfitrión de la conferencia de este año.

Al enterarse de que Trump había pedido que se prohibiera la asistencia de su país a la conferencia de 2026, Ramaphosa comentó: «Sudáfrica es un país soberano, constitucional y democrático, y no aprecia los insultos de otro país sobre su valor para participar en plataformas globales. Sudáfrica seguirá participando como miembro de pleno derecho, activo y constructivo del G20». (New York Times, 26 de noviembre)

A principios de agosto, Trump impuso un arancel del 30 % a los productos exportados desde Sudáfrica, además de recortar drásticamente la ayuda exterior, sobre todo en el ámbito de la prevención del VIH/sida.

El Gobierno sudafricano fue el primero en presentar acusaciones de crímenes de guerra ante la Corte Penal Internacional de La Haya, Países Bajos, a principios de 2024 contra el régimen israelí por el genocidio racista cometido contra la población palestina en Gaza. Este acto desató una tormenta de críticas contra Sudáfrica, primero por parte de la administración de Joe Biden y ahora por parte de la administración de Trump, que sigue armando el genocidio en curso del régimen sionista.

Y a principios de diciembre, Trump amplió su diatriba racista contra otras personas de ascendencia africana cuando se refirió a la comunidad somalí de Minneapolis como «basura». Trump ha ordenado a los matones enmascarados del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) que se abalancen sobre la mayor población de inmigrantes somalíes de Estados Unidos, en Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, con acoso, detenciones y deportaciones. La solidaridad política con el pueblo somalí, en su mayoría musulmán, está creciendo rápidamente en otras comunidades, al igual que en otras ciudades, contra cualquier invasión del ICE.

No es casualidad que Trump esté atacando a los somalíes, nigerianos y sudafricanos negros, así como a los haitianos, venezolanos y centroamericanos y sudamericanos, como parte de su guerra contra los migrantes, especialmente los migrantes de color. Procedente usted mismo de una familia de inmigrantes, Trump ha declarado en más de una ocasión que su objetivo es restaurar la población blanca, que en su día fue dominante en Estados Unidos, ya que cada vez más personas negras y morenas se vieron obligadas a abandonar sus países de origen para sobrevivir y emigrar a Estados Unidos en busca de una vida mejor.

Por eso Trump ha ofrecido a varios miles de sudafricanos blancos incentivos para que se trasladen a Estados Unidos, no porque sean perseguidos por un gobierno negro. Trump no está en contra de toda la inmigración a Estados Unidos, sino que quiere seleccionar quién puede emigrar.

La guerra de Trump contra los migrantes es, en realidad, una guerra para debilitar la capacidad de toda la clase trabajadora multinacional de luchar con toda su fuerza por sus intereses de clase para liberarse de todas las formas de desigualdad capitalista. Por eso es imperativo construir la unidad de clase, empezando por los más oprimidos, para desafiar al enemigo de clase —la clase dominante multimillonaria— y conquistar el poder obrero. ☐

¡Todos ellos son criminales de guerra!

DECLARACIÓN DE WW/MO

El Pentágono ha sido objeto de críticas en los últimos días por atacar pequeñas embarcaciones en el mar Caribe, alegando sin pruebas que proceden de Venezuela y que transportan narcóticos a los Estados Unidos. Concretamente, el secretario de Guerra de los Estados Unidos, Peter Hegseth, ha sido acusado de ordenar al comandante del Mando de Operaciones Especiales de los Estados Unidos, el almirante Frank «Mitch» Bradley, que llevara a cabo un segundo ataque contra una embarcación para matar a los dos sobrevivientes del ataque inicial. El senador demócrata Tim Kaine, de Virginia, dijo que el incidente «alcanza el nivel de crimen de guerra si es cierto» (cbsnews.com, 30 de noviembre).

Ahora, muchos comentaristas y figuras públicas afirman que este ataque es, de hecho, un crimen de guerra.

Cuando The Washington Post filtró por primera vez las informaciones sobre el presunto crimen de guerra, el presidente Donald Trump y Hegseth lo calificaron de «noticia falsa». Ahora que se ha reconocido que el segundo ataque tuvo lugar, Hegseth sostiene que el segundo ataque al barco fue legal, alegando que «todos los traficantes que matamos están afiliados a una organización terrorista designada». (Aljazeera.com, 2 de diciembre)

Se discute si Bradley actuó bajo las órdenes de Hegseth o si el ataque a los sobrevivientes fue iniciativa suya. Tanto Hegseth como Trump minimizaron su responsabilidad, echándole la culpa a Bradley, como suelen hacer los jefes con sus subordinados.

MO FOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Activistas protestan contra las amenazas de guerra contra Venezuela, Nueva York, 22 de noviembre de 2025.

Mundo Obrero considera que todos los ataques contra estos buques civiles, que según admite el Pentágono han causado al menos 80 muertes, son crímenes de guerra y crímenes contra la humanidad. La proclamación de Trump de una «zona de exclusión aérea» sobre el espacio aéreo venezolano y sus alrededores, que las aerolíneas internacionales no acataron, también fue un crimen de guerra ilegal. Además, consideramos que las brutales sanciones de Estados Unidos contra Venezuela, que son un intento de matar de hambre al pueblo para que acepte un cambio de régimen en su país, son un acto criminal de guerra.

Se trata de una grave lucha dentro de la clase dominante sobre la estrategia y las tácticas de guerra. Las fuerzas del movimiento antiimperialista deben intervenir contra Trump y Hegseth, pero deben ser conscientes de que tienen que desenmascarar a los militaristas de ambas alas de la clase dominante e ir más allá.

Los miembros demócratas del Congreso que realizaron el vídeo «Don't Give Up the Ship» (No abandonen el barco) dijeron que «respaldarían» a los militares que se negaran a obedecer órdenes ilegales. El movimiento antiimperialista debe dejar claro que apoyará a cualquier militar que se niegue a obedecer.

Condenamos todos los intentos, tanto de demócratas como de republicanos, de derrocar al gobierno legítimo y de orientación socialista del presidente venezolano Nicolás Maduro y sustituirlo por un títere proimperialista. Maduro ha afirmado acertadamente que «Venezuela no acepta ni aceptará ninguna forma de tutela. [...] Rechazamos enérgicamente el resurgimiento de la Doctrina Monroe y defendemos la Doctrina Bolivariana» (miamiherard.com, 10 de noviembre).

Mundo Obrero hace un llamamiento a todo el personal militar estadounidense para que se niegue a cumplir cualquier orden de atacar la soberanía venezolana. Mundo Obrero también insta encarecidamente a todos los activistas a movilizarse en las calles para condenar cualquier ataque militar directo de Estados Unidos en suelo venezolano. ☐

¡Migrantes, sí! ¡ICE, no!

editorial

Desde que Trump desató a sus matones fascistas de la Oficina de Inmigración y Aduanas (ICE) a principios de este año, especialmente en las grandes zonas urbanas, los trabajadores migrantes, tanto documentados como indocumentados, junto con sus familias, han estado viviendo con el terror de ser agredidos físicamente, detenidos y, finalmente, deportados.

Trump ordenó la invasión de lo que equivale a la reencarnación de las tropas de asalto nazis, muchas de ellas enmascaradas, utilizando acusaciones difamatorias de que los trabajadores migrantes son «traficantes de drogas, violadores y delincuentes» como pretexto para arrestarlos y deportarlos. La verdadera razón, no tan oculta, es utilizar el racismo y la xenofobia como arma para dividir y debilitar la capacidad de la clase trabajadora multinacional de unirse para resistir el impacto de la irreversible crisis económica capitalista a escala mundial.

Las redes sociales se han llenado de vídeos que muestran a agentes del ICE llevando a cabo redadas sorpresa en zonas comerciales, restaurantes, obras, granjas, escuelas e incluso guarderías, secuestrando aleatoriamente a migrantes sin ninguna orden judicial ni el debido proceso.

Los niños quedan traumatizados al ver cómo bandas de matones armados se llevan a sus padres y maestros a lugares desconocidos. En algunos casos, los propietarios

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